THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB) has surveyed 16 soft drink plants in the country for characterization of sludge generated from the Effluent Treatment Plants (ETPs) of these units. The analysis of the sludge has revealed that in 8 plants, the Cadmium concentration was more than 50 mg/kg of sludge and in the rest it was ranging from 5 to 50 mg/kg. It was also observed that there was variation in the concentration of other heavy metals.

(b) The State Pollution Control Boards have been asked to monitor the sludge generated from effluent treatment plants to check the concentration of various parameters exceeding the limits notified under Schedule-2 of the Hazardous Waste (Management and Handling) Rules, 1989 as amended, prior to the disposal of sludge.

Violation of Forest Act by MCL open cast mining

2007. SHRI SURENDRA LATH:
SHRI SURESH BHARDWAJ:

Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that there is a large scale violation of Forest Act by Mahanadi Coalfields Limited open cast mining in the IB Valley areas of Orissa; and

(b) how many cases are being initiated against the MCL for the violation of Forest Act and creation of environmental hazards in the mining areas?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The Mahanadi Coalfields Limited (MCL) had taken up mining and ancillary activities on forest land without obtaining approval of Government of India under Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980, in respect of Samaleswari, Lilari and Belapahar open cast mines. For these violations, the Ministry of Environment and Forests had imposed penal Compensatory Afforestation (CA), to be raised on degraded forest land, twice in extent to the forest land used in violation of FC Act. In case of Lilari mines, penal CA has been imposed to cover four times the forest land used in violation of FC

Act. As per information received from the State Government, 6 offence cases under Orissa Forest Act, 1972, have been registered against the earning officials of MCL. In compliance to the directions of the Government of India, the MCL authorities have initiated action against the defaulting officials for violation of the Forest (Conservation) Act, 1980.

Construction of Vasant Kunj Shopping Mall

2008. SHRIMATI BRINDA KARAT: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to refer to answer to Unstarred Question 347 given in the Rajya Sabha on the 24th November, 2005 and state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Delhi Development Authority has given permission for construction of Vasant Kunj Shopping Mall in Delhi even though the auction purchasers have not obtained necessary clearances from statutory authorities; and

(b) whether Government are contemplating any action against Delhi Development Authority and to stop the construction of Mall?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) and (b) The shopping mall project of Delhi Development Authority (DDA) at Vasant Kunj had been cleared by the Hon'ble Supreme Court and the plots were auctioned accordingly by the DDA. The DDA accorded sanction to the building plans subject to the condition that the auction purchaser would obtain necessary environmental clearance from the Ministry of Environment and Forests/Delhi Pollution Control Committee. So far the Ministry of Environment and Forests has not accorded environmental clearance to the project.

Industries posing danger to environment

2009. SHRIMATI VANGA GEETHA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the multi crore industries continue to pose a danger to health and environment in the country;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether Government not taking serious action despite warning by the researchers;